

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A unitary absorbent structure, comprising:
an upper fibrous layer having a liquid acquisition zone extending to one surface and a liquid distribution zone extending to another surface, the acquisition zone comprising fibers and a binder resin;
a lower fibrous liquid storage layer in liquid communication with the liquid distribution zone surface of said upper fibrous layer, said storage layer including superabsorbent polymer particles; and
a containment layer surrounding the storage layer and extending to outer edges of said structure, said containment layer containing fibers and superabsorbent polymer particles of said storage layer against a distribution zone surface of the upper layer, and wherein the containment layer is sealed to at least one edge of said upper fibrous layer.
2. (Original) The structure of claim 1 wherein said upper fibrous layer is airlaid and the acquisition zone has a lower density than the distribution zone.
3. (Previously presented) The structure of claim 1 wherein said lower storage layer is an airfelt layer.
4. (Cancelled).

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5. (Currently Amended) The structure of claim 1 wherein said containment layer is sealed directly to the distribution zone surface of said upper fibrous layer.

6. (Currently Amended) The structure of claim 1 wherein said containment layer is sealed directly to the [lower] storage layer.

7. (Original) The structure of claim 1 wherein said containment layer is selected from the group consisting of thermoplastic film, nonwoven and woven tissue.

8. (Previously presented) The structure of claim 1 wherein said containment layer comprises thermoplastic film selected from the group consisting of polyethylene and polypropylene.

9. (Original) The structure of claim 3 wherein said airfelt layer is lightly bonded.

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